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VOL. I.] JANUARY 1918. [No. 1.

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19 FEB 1918

# THE South Indian Record.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

MAINLY DEVOTED TO
LOCAL POLITICS SOCIETY Etc.,

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**ADVERTISEMENTS.**

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# THE
# SOUTH INDIAN RECORD.

19 FEB 1918

Vol. I. January 1918. No. I.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

OURSELVES.

From 1918 onwards, we have decided to break the silence which we had voluntarily imposed on ourselves, for various reasons, during the past year, and to resume once more our old familiar chat with our readers,—this time, it is hoped, for all Eternity! Doubtless, in the ears of old friends who must have sorely missed us all this time, and been wondering what on earth had become of us, our voice should sound doubly pleasant, on account of the element of dramatic surprise that it contains. We can assure our former patrons, (and our would—be ones also) that, from now onwards, our invaluable company will be placed regularly at their disposal, so that they will have no occasion hereafter to complain of sudden and tantalising disappearances on our part from their midst.

So, our hearty New-year greetings to them all!—the depth of our heartiness depending upon that of its reciprocation!

**OUR POLICY**—As in the past, so in the future, our attitude towards public men, public actions, and public institutions, will be one of strict and stern impartiality, and

unbending independence. Fair criticism is our motto. Where a man or an act deserves censure, we will censure; where he or it deserves praise, we will give it ungrudgingly. Neither fear nor favour will make us budge an inch from our position. In this way, with the help of God, we hope to be of real good to the public of this place. In fact, it is our sole ambition that our journal should be the exact representation of the needs and wants of the people of this District, with which alone we are primarily concerned.

"OUR DAY"—We wonder if it would be possible to say whether, in any one station in the Indian Empire, the "Our Day" celebrations were better conducted, or more enthusiastically supported than in another. Trichinopoly did its part super excellently well. The public liberally contributed, and the noblemen and most of the Zamindars royally contributed. Among the latter, must be mentioned Mr. Pethatchi Chettiar, whose noble generosity must be well known throughout the south of India; and when it is a question of its being tempered by, or rather exalted by a sense of loyalty and active patriotism, he is a very Titan of munificence. The Zamindar of Marungapuri was almost on a par with the Zemindar of Andipatti. The cordial thanks of the public are due to the above named gentlemen; they should be regarded as the shining representatives of the great loyalty and charitableness of the District.

But, if the public will unhesitatingly render their warmest homages to the above personages, they will also unreservedly condemn, (if not contemn) the miserable niggardliness of the Zamindar of Udayarpalayam. Though he possesses vast lands, and takes pride in being called a "Zamindar," he is rumoured to have contributed as little as possible. Probably, he is conserving all his wealth and munificence against supporting some other Cause,—a Cause more just

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and noble than the one in the defence of which not merely the treasures, but in some cases also the blood of the rest of the aristocracy of India have been so lavishly poured out! When the Zamindar of Udayarpalayam has succeeded in discovering such a Cause, let him be good enough to inform the world of the discovery. For our part, we believe he will sooner find the mare's nest, or the philosopher's stone.

(2) **DISTRICT BOARD**—The outstanding event connected with the District Board last year was the appointment of a Non-Official President. Though the measure is said to be a tentative one, we have not the slightest doubt that, henceforward, the Trichy Board will cease to have an official president, because the selection for the new post is, in every way, an admirable one, and has satisfied everybody, even the professional fault-finder, of whom there are plenty in this place. Dewan Bahadur T. Desikachari, our first non-official President, receives our humble congradulations. His hitherto successful *regime* should serve as an excellent demonstration of the capacities of Indians in regard to administration, and the efficient management of public affairs. Pleasing, and good, and courteous without the smallest effort, and popular without a single enemy, Mr. Desikachari is the fittest person on whom the appointment could be conferred, and we are glad and thankful to note that Government so happily pitched upon the right and proper individual.

But, we are sorry to say, the same cannot be said in regard to the nomination of a president to a certain important Taluq Board within the District. The choice fell on a man least fit, either by talents or sympathies, to occupy the place. The result was that, in the course of a few months, he raised a veritable hornet's nest about his head. Petition after petition was sent to the higher authorities complaining of his arrogance, and his general incompetence. He became

so very unpopular that many nick-names were bestowed on him within a very short time, and he came to be the best hated public official in the place.

(INFERENCE:—When a wrong person is selected and put in a position of trust and authority, and when, in course of time, he shows the cloven foot, that case should not be pointed to as proving the unfitness of Indians for even a limited measure of self Government.)

ROADS: LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.—There is a slight improvement visible in the condition of Local Fund and Dt. Board roads, tho' they are not all that can be desired. It is hoped that larger funds will be alloted by these bodies for their more decent maintenance. Judging from a conversation which we recently had with Mr. D'Mello, the District Board Engineer, the executive in these matters seem most eager to give their best to the public, provided that sufficient money is placed at their disposal. It is our hope that this all-important proviso will be made good.

In regard to Municipal roads, there are a few that are passable, but the vast majority are a positive disgrace to civilization, roads which make us sometimes most piously wish that the privilege of even this limited "Home Rule" had not been granted to us. The road from Thiruvanakovil to the Cauvery Bridge is a hell of ruts, pits and dust; it never seems to be watered, and it seems that it will never be kept in good repair. The same is the case with part of the Western Boulevard Road in Fort, beginning from the Post Office, and going up to the Market. It has become a notorious fact that vehicles which will last, say in Madras, for 2 years, do not last in Trichinopoly even for a quarter of the period. Carts are pulled to pieces in only a few months' use. For locomotion in bandies along these roads, one must have the bones of an elephant, and the nerves of a rhinoceros.

And all this, when some of the taxes have been doubled or quadrupled! Our Blessed Municipalities!!

**CENTRAL JAIL**—We one day called on Mr. Hervey, the good Superintendant of the Central Jail, and he was good enough to show us round the place in full detail. We noticed that the health of the prisoners appeared good, judging from their chattiness and cheerful faces. Evidently, Mr. Hervey must be taking a good deal of pains, and executing the prison rules and regulations diluting them with great affection.

**VILLAGE PANCHAYAT**—Trichinopoly is apparently a favoured District for the trial of experimental Schemes. Of the few Districts which were allowed to have non-official District Board Presidents, ours was one. The Village Panchayat Scheme is also being tried here; and so far with marvellous success, under the lead and impulse of the good Tahsildar, Mr. Balakrishna Iyer. Special mention must be made of the Panchayat at Karai, which has all at once leaped into popular favour under its President, Mr. L. Venkatarama Ayyar.

**AFFAIRS IN PUDUKOTTAH**—This neighbouring little Indian State is going, every year, from fresh to fresher prosperity. The population of about half a million is happy and contented under the enlightened rule of H. H. the Maharajah. If, now and then, voices of discontent are heard, they emanate purely from an insignificant clique of professional scare and scandal mongers. Some of the recent utterances in the by turns offensively patronising, and frightfully arrogant and pretentious Anglo-Indian Press at Madras in regard to the so-called constant "absences" of the Maharajah from the State must be traced, we fancy, to this sickly and interested source. These Anglo-Indian dailies, instead of (slightly adapting a phrase) turning their soft and distended

nostrils at the State, might well have taken the trouble to try to derive first hand knowledge of matters. Evidently, they are not aware that important papers go up to His Highness for approval and final orders, wherever he might happen to reside. And then, it is he who is the source, the sole author of the policy of Government in regard to internal matters. In other words, he is both the official and the ornamental Head of the State; and he realises, not merely the importance, but also the usefulness and responsibility of his position. He is assisted by an able body of officials; assisted not thro' "notes" and the other trappings of red-tape, but assisted vigorously, substantially, conscientiously by an able body of officials during his stay in the midst of his people. And the Rajah himself is a person remarkable for his intelligence and imaginative sympathy, and very proficient in the art of Government, of which every year he is endeavouring to broaden the basis, and found it on the people's will and affection. If the test of good Government is the happiness and contentment of the people, surely, Pudukotah is without question among the best Governed States of the world.

Even supposing that the frequent 'absences' of the Rajah from among his people cause them much hardship and inconvenience, (we don't for a moment grant this) they must be conceded by the Anglo-Indian papers as being extremely beneficial in at least one respect, namely that they furnish a comfortable berth for a well paid I.C.S. Probably, when their brains vapoured, this point had been forgotten by them.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

**Mr LABOUCHERE THORNTON.**

We have great pleasure in printing elsewhere a message of New year greetings to his "dear old friends" in

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Trichy from our dear old District Judge, Mr. Labouchere Thornton. The note is full of his usual cheeriness of heart, which is Mr. Thornton's chief quality and attraction. We thank him for having so readily acceded to our request: and we hope that he would allow us, from time to time, to work the mine of his vast and varied accomplishments, of his diversified Indian experiences, gained during nearly quarter of a century's strenuous and sympathetic life among the people of South India. We wish him all joy and prosperity in his new line of life; and also many more returns of January Firsts!

**Mr. PERRY**—We commend to our readers' attention Mr. Perry's article on the simplest method of preventing crushing at the Platform gates, and the wild and confused cattle rush of the 3rd class passengers into the platform through the ingress gate, (which is verily like the gate of Heaven in point of straitness and narrowness!) Mr. Perry is an expert in railway matters, especially those relating to human traffic. He was a railway officer himself for many years, and as such, his opinions and criticisms should be regarded as full of weight and authority, and certainly not as immature or haphazard. We hope that his suggestions for the relief of the congestion, (a most deplorable one, even a glance at which tending to make a cynic of the onlooker) will be taken by the railway authorities, and if possible, given effect to immediately.

We must request Mr. Perry to continue to favour us with his valuable contributions every month.

**To Readers of the "South Indian Record."**

NEWARA ELYA, CEYLON,
*26th December 1917.*

*Dear old friends in Trichinopoly:*

The Editor asks me for a New Year's letter, and gladly

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from the height of this charming Hill Station I send you greetings. For I always look back on the years I spent in Trichinopoly as the happiest years of my life, and neither time nor space can ever sever the links that will always bind me to your beautiful city.

We are living in strenuous times. Who would have thought four short years ago that on the 1st January 1918 the whole of Europe and part of Asia would have been for 3½ years the scene of the bloodiest conflict in history. Yet so it is, and even today the cause of civilisation is not definitely saved.

This as it seems to me must be our first thought. How far can we all, individually as well as collectively, help on the great cause for which the Allies are fighting? And if we can do little to help, how far are we willing at least–even at some personal sacrifice–to abstain from hindering?

India demands Self Government. A very legitimate aspiration! But surely this is hardly the moment to press a Stateman, on whom so heavy a burden rests, claims which will lose nothing by being a short while deferred. We have stated our case to a Secretary of State who certainly is not ill-disposed. Our duty now, I have no hesitation in emphatically affirming, is to possess our souls in patience until the conclusion of the Great War affords a breathing space in which the whole position may be adequately considered.

And meanwhile, is there nothing India can do? Surely yes. None can have read the eloquent appeals of that most versatile genius, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, without determining he will do all that lies in his power to promote that unity which alone can make any form of Self-Government possible?—Unity between Hindus and Mahamadens, unity

between Brahmins and Non-Brahmins, unity between Indians and Britishers. United we shall win; divided we cannot but fail.

This, then, is my New Year's message to my Trichinopoly friends. Put the war first, and strain every nerve to ensure a victorious issue. Trust in the British sense of justice, and do not be disappointed if you cannot at once realise all your aspirations. And, above all things strive for union, and seek by all means in your power to strengthen the ties of sympathy that bind together the different subjects of the Empire.—So shall you and India have a happy and prosperous New Year!

E. LABOUCHERE THORNTON.

## A Simple Method of Preventing Crushing at Platform Gates.

At Indian Railway Stations during Festival times the crowds of Railway passengers anxious to get seats in a train are usually left to struggle in a surging mass outside the Platform gates and fencing, while the Railway Policemen, who should be in their midst checking and controlling them, stand safely on the other side of the fencing and add to the noice by shouting out to the crowd not to press forward! In England when a specially attractive performance is announced at a theatre, and thousands of people desire to get admission, no such crushing as is frequently seen at Indian Platform gates ever occurs, although the numbers passing through each theatre door are probably quite as great as those seeking seats on an Indian Train. The reason for this is very simple. The English crowds are controlled from the street by Policemen appointed for the purpose, and every person, as soon as he or she has bought the necessary ticket, is made to stand in his or her proper

place in a long queue. This consists of 2 long files of persons standing side by side, the pair in the first rank nearest the theatre door being those who first bought their tickets, and the pair in the last rank at the end of the queue being the latest comers. When the theatre door is opened each pair goes in successively in the same way as the animals entered Noah's Ark.

Now there does not appear to the writer any reason why similar queues should not be formed outside Platform gates in India. At Great Festival times when the crowds are likely to be very large, the Railway Booking Offices *should not sell more tickets than there are seats available on the Trains*, and, if there is likely to be crushing at the Booking windows, queues should be formed outside them just as outside the Platform gates. Moreover when the crowd is likely to get out of hand and try and rush the Police and gates, a system of strong parallel transverse barriers about 3 feet apart should be put up in front of each gate with openings alternately at each end, and the queue formed to run from side to side between them, with a Policeman at each turning to check any pushing or shoving. If this queue system is honestly and strictly and regularly enforced, no later arrived passenger being allowed to stand ahead of a prior one, the Indian public will soon realise its great advantages, and all crushing at gates will become a thing of the past.

H. W. PERRY.

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# SPECIFIC REMEDIES.

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**DR. A. MATHURAM,**

*Guru Medical Hall, Trichinopoly.*

## குரு மருந்து சாலை மருந்துகள்.

வியாதியஸ்தர் வியாதியின் விபரம் எழுதினால அருமையான மருந்துகள் செய்தனுப்பி சுகப்படுத்தலாம்.

எல்லாம் ஆயுள்வேத தமிழ் வைத்திய முறையும் ஐரோப்பிய முறையும் கலந்த பக்குவங்கள்.

பா. ஆதிகேசவன்
செப்பனிடுவர் பெயர்

13/10/93
செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்
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ஆகஸ்ட் 1993
செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள்
செப்டம்பர் 1993, oct

சரிபார்க்கும் ம.பா.எ. கையொப்பம்.
14/10/93

ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர் கையொப்பம்.

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SELECT OPINIO

Lionel Vibert Esq., I.C.S.

I am delighted with the well got up, well printed, an high standard and receive the sup a cheque. Please put me down as su

E. L. Thornton Esq., I.C.S.

Many thanks for the papers. The particularly good, and I congratulate you esp Editorial Notes. The papers should have a good sale in Trichinopoly. The war article is excellent.

The late Mr. H. O. D. Harding, I.C.S.

Many thanks for the magazines. You must enroll me as a subscriber. I think the magazine is very well got up. You have a gift of humour, and write with strength which makes it pleasant reading. I think you have started well. I hope the venture has a great future before it.

Hon. Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Iyer B.A., B.L.

I may say I find your periodical a very good reading.

All remittances and business correspondence must be addressed to the Manager THE "SOUTHERN STAR" PRESS, TRICHINOPOLY. All literary contributions, Books, for Review should be sent to the Editor.

THE SOUTH INDIAN RECORD,

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